



# *AFC Board Newsletter*

Board Newsletter of the American Folklife Center  
Betsy Peterson, Director

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## AFC Hosts Two Homegrown Concerts in July



AFC Director Betsy Peterson joins members of the Libaya Baba group on stage after their July 2 concert in the Coolidge Auditorium. Photo Credit: Steve Winick.

The American Folklife Center hosted two concerts of the *Homegrown, Music of America* concert series in July, produced in cooperation with the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival's *One World, Many Voices: Endangered Languages and Cultural Heritage*. The concert on July 2 featured members of Greg Palacio's Garifuna music and dance group Libaya Baba which means "Grandfather's Grandchildren." After

migrating to Los Angeles, California, in the late 1970s, band members felt the need to preserve their indigenous Garifuna culture, which has both Caribbean and West African elements. Libaya Baba has retained the traditional format of call and response in songs, to uphold the memory of their ancestors. They were joined by special guest James Lovell from New York City. While Libaya Baba works to preserve older forms of drumming and dance, James Lovell is particularly involved in Punta Rock, which is the most popular dance tradition today among Garifuna young people.



The Harmonia ensemble presented traditional folk music and dance of Eastern Europe during the July 11 concert. Photo Credit: Steve Winick.

The July 11 concert brought the virtuoso musicians of Harmonia to the Coolidge stage. Harmonia presents traditional folk music of Eastern Europe, ranging from the Danube to the Carpathians. Its repertoire reflects the immigrant cultures of this region: Hungarian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Romanian, Croatian and Gypsy (Roma). Modeled on turn-of-the-century eastern-European Gypsy bands, their music is drawn from both the urban

and rural traditions of eastern Europe. Band founder Walt Mahovich has put together musicians from varied eastern-European backgrounds. In addition to being polished performers on instruments as varied as accordion, upright bass, violin, pan-flute, and cimbalom (hammered dulcimer) Harmonia's members are adept at explaining their music and culture to diverse audiences and did a great job of presenting their music at the Library.

Upcoming acts for the *Homegrown, Music of America* series include The Brotherhood Singers, an R&B and gospel group from Kentucky on August 7, and Kalanidhi Dance, a traditional Kuckipudi Dance group from Maryland on August 14.

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## Peterson Attends WIPO Meeting in Geneva



In July, AFC Director Betsy Peterson attended the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), held at WIPO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. She served as an expert to the U.S. delegation, which included staff from the U.S. Patent and Trade Office and U.S. Copyright Office (based at the

LC). The first part of the meeting was devoted to discussion on Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs), while the second part was set apart to evaluate progress made during the year and discuss the renewal of

the committee for the next biennium (2014-2015) along with a program agenda and schedule. Discussion at this year's meeting was difficult at times as delegations expressed differing views about the process and content of future work. At the end of the session, no agreement was reached regarding the future work of the committee. It is anticipated that a report will be submitted to WIPO General Assembly in September, outlining alternatives with the expectation that this high level committee will reach agreement.

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## VHP Commemorates the Anniversary of the Korean War



Veterans History Project Director Bob Patrick and VHP Reference Specialist Megan Harris listen to Korean War Veteran Arlen Rowley during his visit to the VHP Information Center.

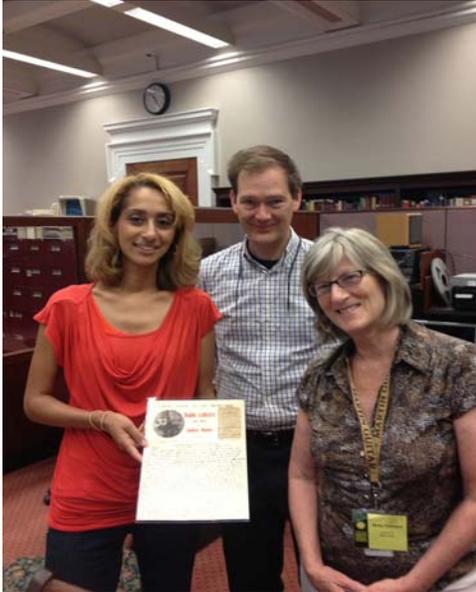
Honoring the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War, the Veterans History Project has participated in several commemorative activities with veterans of this often overlooked conflict. These personal yet significant efforts cap VHP's 3-year effort to draw attention to the experiences of veterans of the Korean War.

Highlights include:

- Working with his staff and in conjunction with a Veterans History Project workshop given in his district by Ellen McHale from the New York Folklore Society, Bob Patrick and Liaison Specialist Owen Rogers interviewed Representative Charles Rangel. With the third longest tenure in Congress, Representative Rangel is a veteran both of the Korean War and historic Civil Rights Activism.
- VHP welcomed the personal submission of additional manuscript materials to the existing collection of Arden Rowley who in November of 1950, was among the thousands of American soldiers captured during the Battle of Ch'ongch'on River. After enduring 33 months of Chinese political indoctrination and reeducation, Rowley was determined to document his service and subsequent captivity. In a meaningful journey he travelled from Arizona to see his collection, and add to it, here at the Library of Congress.
- Additionally The Korean War Veterans Digital Memorial Foundation visited us with 60 high school and college students who are children and grand children of Korean War veterans. Liaison Specialist Lisa Taylor provided a brief workshop and worked with Processing Technician, Joanna Russo to provide special tours of the Jefferson building.

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## Leadbelly Relative Visits AFC Reading Room



The Folklife Reading Room received a distinguished visitor on June 29, Terika Dean, great niece of Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter. Terika has recently joined the Leadbelly Foundation as its licensing director. Her brother, Alvin Singh, is the Foundation archivist.

The Folklife Center holds substantive Leadbelly collections, including recordings made by John A. Lomax and Alan Lomax during the 1930s and early 1940s, correspondence between Huddie and Alan, and 1940s film footage of Ledbetter compiled by Pete Seeger.

Left: Reference Librarian Todd Harvey and Betsy Peterson host Terika Dean, grand niece to "Leadbelly" Ledbetter in the AFC Reading Room on June 29. Photo Credit: Brock Thompson.

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**Reminder: Board Conference Call Set for September 12, 2013,  
1:30-3:30 PM.**